

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 3, 2006

The Honorable Dennis J. Hastert
Speaker of the House Office
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Majority Leader Office
H-107 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Majority Whip Office
H-329 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Republican Leadership,

We write to you today to express our concern regarding the growing cost of H.R. 4939, the FY2006 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery.

Since the House passed this bill on March 16, 2006, the Senate has been adding billions of dollars in non-emergency spending to a measure that is meant to provide emergency funds to our troops in the field and those still recovering from one of our country's worst natural disasters.

One particularly egregious earmark seeks \$700 million in federal funds to move a railroad track that had just been repaired at a cost of \$250 million. Supporters of the project say the rail line needs to be moved because it is vulnerable to hurricane damage. Yet the proposed new location is just a short distance inland and was greatly damaged by Katrina last year. There is well documented evidence that the real reason supporters want this newly repaired rail line moved is to make room for casino development along the Gulf Coast.

While these Senators are fighting to secure money for pet projects, American servicemen and women are awaiting these funds to fight for the cause of freedom. Senators who have been adding billions to the bottom line of this legislation by insisting that pet projects be receive funds are jeopardizing the passage of this measure.

We applaud President Bush for issuing a strong veto threat against the bill unless it is under his \$92 billion request. We also encourage you to work to strip these unnecessary spending increases from the bill when this measure reaches conference.

We look forward to working with you on this legislation in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Ing. H. Hs

Bar. L. Hs

Paul B.

Jim Gutierrez

Chi. Ch.

Todd F. Hs

Paul Hs

Tom K. Hs

Van Bunt

Tom L. Hs

E. Scott Hs

David W. Hs

Steve P. Hs

Robert B. Hs

Randy Hs

Marilyn Hs

John C. Hs

John S. Hs

Virginia Hs

Steve King

Art Hs

John Hs

John Sull

Jeff Niles

Jeff Tuley

Mark Souders

Boyd

Michael T. McCool

John Davis

Stewart Pearce

Ernst L. L. L.